



Acton

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Acton is a suburban community located 25 miles northwest of Boston. Although Acton's population has almost tripled in the last three decades, the town has retained much of its rural New England character, as evidenced by the traditional town center and green, with fine examples of historic architecture, and the stone walls and tree-lined country roads. However, Acton is well prepared for the 21st century. Acton affords a full range of services to its residents and businesses, including an active town government, top-notch libraries, a nationally accredited police department, a full-time fire department, and local and regional school systems that are ranked among the top in the state. Commerce continues to thrive and grow in Acton due in large part to its prime location along Routes 2, 27 and 111, the commuter train stop, and its proximity to Route 495. A wide range of retail stores and services, a community theater, various types of commercial recreation and several museums, can all be found in Acton.



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Carlisle and Concord on the east, Westford and Littleton on the north, Sudbury on the south, Maynard and Stow on the southwest, and Boxborough on the west. Acton is 25 miles northwest of Boston, 14 miles south of Lowell, 29 miles northeast of Worcester, and 203 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 20.29 sq. miles

Land Area: 19.98 sq. miles

Population: 17,872

Density: 894 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Maynard, Westford

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (598) 264-9615

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1735

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	10,963		
Democrats	2,155	19.7	%
Republicans	1,586	14.5	%
Other parties	5	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,217	65.8	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Acton town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	20,331	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	20,331	100.0
Male.....	10,020	49.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	360	1.8
Female.....	10,311	50.7	Mexican.....	56	0.3
Under 5 years.....	1,507	7.4	Puerto Rican.....	54	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,784	8.8	Cuban.....	24	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,831	9.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	226	1.1
15 to 19 years.....	1,155	5.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	19,971	98.2
20 to 24 years.....	593	2.9	White alone.....	17,730	87.2
25 to 34 years.....	2,222	10.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,173	20.5	Total population.....	20,331	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,581	17.6	In households.....	20,189	99.3
55 to 59 years.....	1,087	5.3	Householder.....	7,495	36.9
60 to 64 years.....	697	3.4	Spouse.....	4,882	24.0
65 to 74 years.....	997	4.9	Child.....	6,834	33.6
75 to 84 years.....	515	2.5	Own child under 18 years.....	5,880	28.9
85 years and over.....	189	0.9	Other relatives.....	401	2.0
Median age (years).....	37.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	84	0.4
18 years and over.....	14,339	70.5	Nonrelatives.....	577	2.8
Male.....	6,954	34.2	Unmarried partner.....	264	1.3
Female.....	7,385	36.3	In group quarters.....	142	0.7
21 years and over.....	13,970	68.7	Institutionalized population.....	129	0.6
62 years and over.....	2,112	10.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	13	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,701	8.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	727	3.6	Total households.....	7,495	100.0
Female.....	974	4.8	Family households (families).....	5,540	73.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	3,227	43.1
One race.....	20,032	98.5	Married-couple family.....	4,882	65.1
White.....	17,982	88.4	With own children under 18 years.....	2,822	37.7
Black or African American.....	142	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	490	6.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	325	4.3
Asian.....	1,758	8.6	Nonfamily households.....	1,955	26.1
Asian Indian.....	617	3.0	Householder living alone.....	1,601	21.4
Chinese.....	812	4.0	Householder 65 years and over.....	396	5.3
Filipino.....	43	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,288	43.9
Japanese.....	35	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,162	15.5
Korean.....	152	0.7	Average household size.....	2.69	(X)
Vietnamese.....	31	0.2	Average family size.....	3.19	(X)
Other Asian ¹	68	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	-	Total housing units.....	7,680	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,495	97.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	185	2.4
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	4	-	occasional use.....	35	0.5
Some other race.....	130	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	299	1.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	7,495	100.0
White.....	18,270	89.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,702	76.1
Black or African American.....	196	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,793	23.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	54	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.93	(X)
Asian.....	1,910	9.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.95	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	8	-			
Some other race.....	217	1.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	142
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	19
Federal (Section 8):	104



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Acton is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 2, 2A, 27, and 111.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available from South Acton to North Station, Boston. Travel time 44-51 minutes; 287 MBTA parking spaces available. The Bay Colony Railroad provides freight rail service to North Acton. Contact number: (617) 380-3556. Freight rail service is also available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Acton is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA). No fixed bus service is available, but the LRTA Road Runner Program and the Council on Aging provide paratransit services for the elderly and disabled. Yankee Bus Line, Inc., offers limited commuter service to Boston.

Other

Acton is within easy reach of the Boston docks and Logan International Airport. L.G. Hanscom Field in Bedford is a Reliever Airport with Commercial Service: a 5,106' long asphalt runway and a 7,001' long asphalt and concrete runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

The Discovery Museums
177 Main Street
(978) 264-4200
Iron Work Farm In Acton, Inc.
Faulkner House
5 High Street
(978) 263-5543

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Suburban Manor Conv. & Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.